

In supporting the TEAM Veterans Caregivers Act, DAV states:

“Family caregivers are the unsung heroes for thousands of severely injured veterans, as they not only perform complex medical and personal care tasks but are often the lifeline of many ill and injured veterans to lead dignified and independent lives. However, mismanagement of the VA’s Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers has, in far too many instances, caused the improper disruption or termination of benefits family caregivers need to support their veteran.”

I support this bipartisan legislation because it provides needed support for veterans who can least afford to be without it, those disabled in connection with their service to our country.

I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass S. 2216, the TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act.

DON FOWLER

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the wonderful life of Don Fowler.

Don Fowler fervently worked at improving and molding the South Carolina Democratic party to be inclusive, inspiring, and of strong moral ground. He served as chairman of the S.C. Democratic Party and Democratic National Party. Fowler served 30 years in the United States Army, was a member of the Washington Street United Methodist Church, and was a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Fowler loved politics and he loved people. His years of educating spanned over five decades and his teachings will be passed down by his beloved students for many decades to come.

For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Romans 7:8.

Don Fowler lived to serve his loved ones, his community, and the party he cherished, and he now rests in Heaven. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, students, and anyone that was lucky enough to know the legend of Don Fowler.

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK SASSARA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a long-time friend and a great Alaskan, Chuck Sassara, who died this Fall at the age of 89, just weeks before turning 90, after living an incredible life. Chuck was born in Detroit, Michigan on Oct 19, 1930, and we lost a great friend and Alaskan spirit on September 25, 2020. Chuck was an Aviator, Husband, Father, Grandfather, State Legislator, Sailor, Advocate, Author, Businessman, Athlete, Storyteller and, an amazing Character. He is known and loved by thousands around the

globe and died on a Friday afternoon while refueling his Toyota van, preparing to go . . . somewhere.

Chuck loved life. He was always headed to the next adventure—whether that was driving the Alcan Highway almost 50 times, ferrying aircraft across the continent, driving across North Africa with his young family at the end of the Algerian war, or sailing across the Atlantic. He believed in the best of human nature and was never cynical about the future. He was unafraid to try new things, but he didn’t always succeed. Lately, it was his repeated failures to master his “smart phone” with 89-year-old fingers.

Born to Charles Sr. (Pappy) and Kathleen Agnes (Nana) he, along with brother Richard (Dick) Sassara, grew up between Miami, the Panama Canal Zone, and Los Angeles. Meeting his true love Ann at University HS in Los Angeles, the couple married while Chuck attended UCLA. Upon graduation they had a discussion; go back to Panama or see Alaska? In the spring of 1955, they drove north in a VW bus to build a life and help bring a new state into being. In the early 60’s Chuck ran for the State House and quickly became the Majority Leader and Finance Chair. In these roles he championed such important work as the 1964 Equal Rights Amendment, Women’s Rights, and the creation of University of Alaska Anchorage. His peers in the Legislature included Nick Begich, Willie Hensley, Ted Stevens and me. The group of us were often competitors, often allies, and after session “happy-hour” compatriots, bound together by circumstance, a common purpose and shared values. We were great friends and had great respect for one another, whether we agreed or disagreed on the politics of the day. We need more of that spirit of bipartisan friendship, not less.

As an aviator Chuck flew commercial, multi engine aircraft and was an IFR rated pilot that flew 161 different types of aircraft, logging over 25,000 hours in planes as small as the Breezy to as large as the four engine Lockheed Constellation. As a sailor he crossed the Atlantic, made passages from Miami to Los Angeles, sailed solo from Seattle to Whittier Alaska, and made several dozen trips to the Bahamas and beyond, finishing with an offshore passage from Florida to the Carolina Outer Banks with son Charlie, nephew Rick and friend Michel Bourquin in 2017. As a writer, his memoir “Propellers, Politics and People: Chuck Sassara’s Alaska” is a testament to his skill as a storyteller and the craft of putting others first, in narrative and in life.

He is survived by his proudest achievement: his sons Charlie and Richard, grandchildren Tyler, Rachael, and Annalyssa, and his daughter-in-law Mary, Mimi Bourquin, his nephew Rick and his wife Amy, their daughter Katy, niece Lisa and her daughters Alexandria and Gabrielle, and his sister-in-law, Ellen.

Most of all, Chuck will be survived by the raucous and wonderful stories he told to friends over coffee and beer, the lives he saved, and the spirit of Alaska he imbued in everything he touched. All of us who knew him rest comfortably knowing he’s somewhere on a broad reach, steering by starlight, and reunited with his beloved Ann. We love Chuck, sail on and Godspeed.

A WORD OF THANKS TO GEORGIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN AND OSCE PA PRESIDENT GEORGE TSERETELI

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, during this challenging year I have periodically taken the floor to update my Congressional colleagues on my continued work with our friends and allies across the Atlantic as we confront the challenges facing Europe and beyond. This has included not only the direct impact of the COVID pandemic itself on public and economic health but also in regard to ongoing issues like Russian aggression, the violation of human rights in Belarus and other countries, and the common threat all countries face from terrorism.

Today, I take the floor to praise one of our best friends and allies in these efforts, George Tsereteli, who is stepping down as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly—the OSCE PA—as a result of leaving the parliament of the Republic of Georgia. During his tenure as President, I have significantly deepened my engagement in this valuable forum, including being appointed by President Tsereteli earlier this year to serve as chair of the OSCE PA committee dealing with security matters.

George Tsereteli is a true leader. During his time as President of the OSCE PA, he has spoken out forcefully against the violation of the Helsinki Principles which guide relations between OSCE countries and emphasized the linkages between these principles. That includes condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine and other neighbors, including his own country of Georgia. That also includes condemning the violation of human rights that is today so brutally evident in Belarus but has in fact been an ongoing issue there as well as in Russia and far too many other OSCE countries. True peace, in his view, requires respect for human rights. At the same time, George worked with parliamentarians from across the OSCE region, respecting their more specific concerns on a variety of issues, from combating corruption to environmental protection, and giving them a venue to raise these issues in this multilateral forum.

In this sense, George Tsereteli represents his country well. He understands that, if the international community is to assist Georgia with the challenges it faces, Georgians must make their contribution to security and cooperation across Europe, the OSCE region and beyond.

George Tsereteli is also a true friend of the United States and of the Congress. He keeps in close contact with me and other Members from both sides of the aisle. George does the same with our colleagues in the Senate. When he visits the United States, George never fails to reach out. In between, despite his heavy schedule, George is always available when we need his input. In his speeches, George regularly recognizes the good work done by the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

Finally, George Tsereteli understands that it is not only diplomats or parliamentarians who contribute to positive change. He has engaged

and supported those individuals who, as opposition leaders, journalists or human rights advocates, act upon their own human rights to defend the human rights of others, indeed those of all citizens. This was evident in his support for efforts by many of us to hold accountable those who were truly responsible for the murder of Russian opposition figure Boris Nemtsov, or his suggestions on how best to respond to the assault on the citizenry today in Belarus.

Those of us who have engaged through the OSCE PA will miss having George Tsereteli leading our debates from the dais, but I am sure we will continue to have opportunities to work with him in his future endeavors. I am also sure that, passing the gavel to Peter Lord Bowness of the United Kingdom as OSCE PA President, he has left a healthy institution in capable hands. As the Assembly undertakes this leadership transition, I want to assure my colleagues here in Congress and in the OSCE PA of my own enduring commitment to advancing the interests of the United States and of its many friends and partners throughout the OSCE region.

On a more personal note, I consider myself blessed to call George Tsereteli my friend. He has mentored me, encouraged me, and given me extraordinary opportunities to be a voice for my constituents and our nation on the international stage. George's humor and kindness have enriched my life and the lives of all those who have been fortunate enough to cross his path.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in saluting the service of George Tsereteli as the longest serving leader in the history of the OSCE PA as well as recognizing the importance of continued Congressional engagement with the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE.

IN RECOGNITION OF HON. MARCY
S. FRIEDMAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Justice Marcy S. Friedman. For the past three decades, Justice Friedman has capably presided over New York City courts. Justice Friedman was appointed as a Judge of the Housing Part of the Civil Court of New York City in 1991 and was elected to the Civil Court in 1994. In 2000, Justice Friedman was named a Supreme Court Justice by designation and assigned to the New York County Supreme Court, Civil Branch, to which she was re-elected in 2004. In 2012, Justice Friedman was named as a Justice of the Commercial Division, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County. For the past few years, Justice Friedman has served as the Residential Mortgage Backed Securities Judge, working on some of the most complex cases in the courts.

Justice Friedman is a graduate of Smith College, magna cum laude, and of the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, cum laude. She was an associate with Willkie, Farr and Gallagher LLP, a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society Civil Division, and a managing attorney at MFY Legal Services.

Starting in 2000, Justice Friedman presided over an Individual Assignment Part in New

York County, where she handled torts, commercial case, and a wide variety of other cases, including employment discrimination, insurance, and real estate. Justice Friedman is a long-term member of the New York County's Center for where she has handled mass torts, including pharmaceutical and asbestos cases.

Long committed to improving access to justice, Justice Friedman is a member of the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) Justice Center and a former member of the NYCLA Board of Directors. With the Justice Center, Justice Friedman chaired a Task Force on Housing Court. She also worked with NYCLA and other groups to organize a conference that brought together a distinguished group of prosecutors, defense lawyers, judges and scholars to address the racial impacts of criminal prosecutions of arraignments through sentencing. Justice Friedman has also lectured at the New York City Bar Association and at judicial seminars on various issues, including legal ethics and torts.

After decades of dedicated service, Justice Friedman will be retiring on December 31, 2020. Her tenure has been highlighted by diligent scholarship and thorough review of complex cases. Justice Friedman's notable ability review and synthesize conflicting decisions has been an asset to the New York County Court, and she will be missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Justice Marcy S. Friedman and expressing appreciation for her contributions to the people of New York.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT TIMOTHY J. THIELE

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a true patriotic Tennessean and American, Senior Master Sergeant Timothy J. Thiele. Sergeant Thiele will retire from the Tennessee Air National Guard later this month after 31 years of dedicated service to his state and nation for which I offer him my most sincere and heartfelt thanks.

Tennessee has long been known as "The Volunteer State," a nickname that was first heard after Tennessee sent a large contingent of soldiers to help fight the British during the War of 1812. The moniker was solidified and forever etched into the history of our state in 1846 when Tennessee was asked to send 2,800 soldiers to help fight the Mexican-American War, but over 30,000 Tennesseans volunteered to go.

Sergeant Thiele's 31 years of volunteer military service is a modern manifestation of that proud Tennessee legacy of honor and sacrifice during which he deployed overseas eleven separate times as a part of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve, Freedom Sentinel, and New Dawn. Closer to home, and as a part of its unique dual role, the National Guard is often called into action to provide relief and assistance during ruinous natural disasters. Sergeant Thiele was an important part of such efforts on

three separate occasions when Hurricanes Gustav, Rita, and Katrina devastated regions of our country. His valiant efforts and those of his fellow Guard members saved lives and eased the pain inflicted by the storms' destruction on countless fellow Americans.

I would be remiss if I didn't properly note that the families of our men and women in uniform also sacrifice much, especially when their loved ones in the military deploy overseas. Two-parent families suddenly become one-parent families in a practical sense, with the obvious burden that ensues. Sergeant Thiele's wife of 20 years, Tyran, along with his children Tanner and Addison, sacrificed along with him during his deployments, albeit in different ways. Military families understand all too well the sacrifice represented by missed birthdays, holidays, and other special occasions while their loved ones are separated from them in service to their country. For this I want to extend my sincere thanks to Sergeant Thiele's family as well for their own dedication and service to our nation.

As Sergeant Thiele rose through the ranks during his career, he personally trained hundreds of AeroMed Evacuation personnel in Tennessee in addition to leading multistate joint medical training efforts. He became known as a "proven leader" and a "superior role model" by his own superiors, and I couldn't agree more. It is truly an honor to represent this genuine, modern day patriot in the United States Congress.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Senior Master Sergeant Timothy J. Thiele on his retirement, in thanking him and his family for their sacrifice and service, and in wishing them well in all their future endeavors.

MOROVIS NATIONAL CEMETERY
DEDICATION CEREMONY

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, democracies like ours are heavily supported by military service undertaken by their citizens. In the United States, soldiers rally under the flag to risk life and limb to defend our liberty and the ideals that define our country. The responsibility the U.S. Congress assumes to send them to war cannot be taken lightly, particularly when their service also weighs heavily upon their family and community. A weight that is disproportionately heavy upon the shoulders of the Puerto Ricans who have valiantly and honorably stepped forward to serve in harm's way without enjoying full representation in the U.S. Congress.

Upon separation from the Armed Forces, Congress honors the military service of its men and women by approving legislation that authorizes a wide variety of benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs. Of all these benefits, one that due to its solemn nature faithfully demonstrate the eternal gratitude of this nation towards its citizen soldiers is the interment of their remains in national cemeteries. For those citizen soldiers that give the ultimate sacrifice while in service and for